

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated January 18, 2008. Claims 1, 14, 15, and 16 have been amended, claim 13 has been canceled; as such claims 1-12 and 14-16 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 14-16 are independent claims. Reconsideration and allowance is requested in view of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowed dependent claim 13. Dependent claims 14-16 have each been amended to incorporate the subject matter of independent claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates that claims 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and intervening claims. Applicant notes that claim 16 was allowed but should have been objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim due to its dependency on claim 1.

Applicant notes that these claims are allowable in their own right, and not simply for the reasons set forth in the Office Action.

Applicant submits that independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Claims 14-16 have been amended to include the subject matter of independent claim 1 on which these claims depend. Therefore, it is submitted that amended independent claims 1, 14-16, and any dependent claims are also allowable in view of the Examiner's previous consideration of allowability of the subject matter added to these claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,883,609 in view of Asada et al.

By this amendment, each of independent claims 1 and 14-16 has been placed in allowable form. Accordingly, the rejection as to these claims, and to those claims dependent thereon, is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2919 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  40,290

Ronald P. Kananen

Registration No.: 24,104

Christopher M. Tobin

Registration No.: 40,290

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

Correspondence Customer Number: 23353

Attorneys for Applicant